

REMARKS

1. The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 – 10, 13 – 17, 19 and 20 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The use of “Kevlar” in Claims 10, 13 and 19 is deemed objectionable and improper antecedent basis was found for “items” in the last line of Claim 1 and for “said reinforcement panel” in the last line of Claim 14. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants would direct the Examiner’s attention to the amendments to Claims 10, 13 and 19 to replace “Kevlar” with the generic term “aramid fiber” as suggested in the Office action. Furthermore, Applicants have amended Claim 2 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 1, and in doing so have corrected the typographical error of “items”. Also, in Claim 14, the dependency was changed from Claim 11 to Claim 12 to provide proper antecedent basis for “saif reinforcement panel”.

In view of these amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 and 11 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,733,060 (Pavkov) and under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,848,626 (Waters), as well as other cited patents including the Geeves, Bartholomew, Nipp, Bott and Hughes patents as identified in the Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant would direct the Examiner’s attention to the amendments to Claims 2 and 12 to incorporate the limitations of independent Claims 1 and 11, respectively, thus placing Claims 2 and 12 into independent form. As noted below, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 2 and 12 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed into independent form. The remaining dependent Claims 3 – 10 and 13 – 17 are retained in their dependent form providing claims of variable scope.

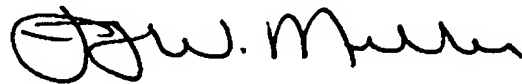
In view of the amendments made above, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. Applicants appreciate the allowance of independent Claim 18 in the Office Action and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2 – 10, 12 – 17, 19 and 20. In response hereto, Applicants have placed Claims 2 and 12 into independent form, and have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

4. In summary, Claims 2, 10, 12 – 14 and 19 have been amended, Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled, and Claims 2 – 10 and 12 - 20 remain in the application. Applicants believe that the claims are allowable based on the foregoing amendments. Applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call the undersigned attorney if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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